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Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/129 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Integrating volunteering into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond",

Welcoming the integration of volunteerism into all relevant issues considered at the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] in which it is acknowledged that volunteers and other stakeholders will be important to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complement the efforts of Governments and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that it can help to expand and mobilize constituencies and engage people in the national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and that volunteer groups can help to localize the Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development creates unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by and between Governments, communities, civil society, the private sector, academia, the media and international actors, including the United Nations system,

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] Resolution 69/313, annex.

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Acknowledging also the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, acknowledging further the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote volunteerism throughout its global network, noting the work of other volunteer-involving organizations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and acknowledging the important role of civil society in facilitating volunteering,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers programme of the report entitled *2018 State of the World's Volunteerism Report: The Thread that Binds — Volunteerism and Community Resilience*, which presents new evidence on the role of volunteerism, especially through equitable and inclusive compacts between local volunteers and other communities, actors and organizations in strengthening community resilience, voice and inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[3]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating volunteerism, as appropriate, into the planning for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] and encourages the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector, in partnership with Member States, to support such efforts and promote a conducive environment for volunteerism and volunteers to enhance the sustainability of development results;

3. *Encourages* Governments, in partnership with United Nations entities, volunteer-involving organizations, the private sector, civil society, including academia, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to integrate volunteerism into national development strategies, plans and policies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks or equivalent planning frameworks;

4. *Encourages* the meaningful participation and integration of all people, including youth, older persons, women, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups, into volunteer-involving programmes and projects, with the provision of the appropriate means to leverage the full potential of volunteerism;

5. *Commends* the Member States that highlighted the contributions of volunteers to the Sustainable Development Goals in their voluntary national reviews for the high-level political forum on sustainable development held in 2016, 2017 and 2018, and encourages all Member States to increasingly cooperate with volunteer-involving and civil society organizations, to include information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in future voluntary national reviews and engage volunteers for the monitoring of progress towards achieving the Goals at the national and subnational levels and as part of wider citizen engagement;

6. *Encourages* all Member States to invest in measuring the scale and contribution of people's voluntary efforts, in line with the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians standard on volunteer work and the International Labour Organization Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work, and to collect and utilize high-quality data disaggregated by sex, age and disability to support and integrate volunteerism into national strategies and to measure its impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[3] A/73/254.

7. *Commends* all volunteers globally — formal, informal, community, national, international, online, youth and older volunteers — for their contributions to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with volunteer-involving organizations, including from civil society, to support efforts to enhance the protection, security and well-being of volunteers, calls upon States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for volunteers, and encourages the adoption of good practices in the promotion, facilitation and, where applicable, management of volunteerism;

9. *Reaffirms* the institutional arrangements to implement the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are consistent with and complement existing global review mechanisms on the Sustainable Development Goals and build upon and are complemented by independent forums and processes that maximize the participation, voice and contributions of volunteers, and, in particular:

(a) Encourages Member States to continue to work with national and local partners to prepare an analysis of volunteering at the national level before the end of 2018;

(b) Welcomes that national-level analysis will be inputs for regional consultations on volunteering in 2019, and requests that these regional consultations be held under the auspices of the regional commissions of the United Nations in the context of the regional forums on sustainable development, providing an opportunity for Member States and partners to discuss evidence and approaches, identify opportunities for addressing knowledge gaps and ensure, among other things, that national and regional inputs into the high-level political forum on sustainable development take account of volunteer contributions to the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Encourages civil society, academia and the private sector, and especially volunteer-involving organizations, to use all existing forums and processes, in accordance with their respective rules and mandates, to increase consultations on trends, evidence and approaches on volunteer contributions to the 2030 agenda and the plan of action;

(d) Requests the United Nations Volunteers programme, and invites the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to jointly organize the global technical meeting to be held in 2020 on the theme "Reimagining volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda", building upon the foundations provided by the processes highlighted above, to further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers with regard to the 2030 Agenda, and requests that this meeting be held as a special event on the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020;

10. *Recognizes* the United Nations Volunteers programme as the appropriate United Nations entity to support the implementation of the plan of action, and expects the programme to coordinate the work to consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learned, promote successful volunteer actions and ensure that the differentiated impact of volunteers on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is documented as part of regular national policy, planning and implementation practices;

11. *Also recognizes* the role of information and communications technologies in expanding innovative forms of volunteering, and encourages Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to support online volunteering, including United Nations online volunteering that provides inclusive technology-enabled global platforms;

12. *Further recognizes* the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers as the resource enabling the United Nations Volunteers programme to support the implementation of the plan of action, as well as develop initiatives that embed the values of volunteerism in the work of Governments and the United Nations system, and encourages Member States in a position to do so to enhance their contributions to the Fund, thereby ensuring continuing activities;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including the plan of action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the item entitled "Social development".